

DEC 9 2 2004

2672

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the:  
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,  
VA 22313-1450.  
Date: November 30, 2004

June Keating

**PATENT**  
27877.51

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Norio HAGA et al.	Art Unit: 2672
Serial No.: 09/171,236	
Filed: July 13, 1999	Examiner: M. Good-Johnson
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE AND IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD	

COMMENTARY RE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, submitted herewith is a copy of a European search report issued in a corresponding European patent application and copies of six (6) prior art references cited therein. For the Examiner's convenience, we have enclosed a completed Form PTO-1449 listing all of the prior art references cited in the European search report.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97 (c), Applicants enclose a Credit Card Form for \$180.00 to pay for the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p). The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1353 for any fee shortages

Applicants respectfully request that the disclosed reference be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 30, 2004

  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Joseph R. Keating  
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett  
Registration No. 46,710

**KEATING & BENNETT, LLP**  
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Telephone: (703) 385-5200  
Facsimile: (703) 385-5080

Substitute for form 1449/PTO		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	09/171,236
		Filing Date	July 13, 1999
		First Named Inventor	Norio HAGA
		Art Unit	2672
		Examiner Name	M. Good-Johnson
Sheet	1	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	27877.51

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	09/171,236
		Filing Date	July 13, 1999
		First Named Inventor	Norio HAGA
		Art Unit	2672
		Examiner Name	M. Good-Johnson
		Attorney Docket Number	27877.51
Sheet	2	of	2

## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

- Applicant unique citation designation number (optional): \*Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.